

August 8, 2001

Contact: John R. Kemp

REGENTS AWARD \$28 MILLION TO LOUISIANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR ENDOWED CHAIRS AND ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

BATON ROUGE -- During August and early September, the Louisiana Board of Regents for postsecondary education will distribute almost \$28 million in matching grants to the state's public and private colleges and universities to help finance the creation 34 new Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars and 253 new Endowed Professorships.

The endowed chairs and professorships are being funded by \$42 million in private donations and \$28 million in state matching funds. The \$28 million state match is a combination of \$6 million interest earned this year through the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund and a special \$22 million appropriation from surplus funds approved by the Legislature during the last session. The result is \$70 million in new endowment funds for chairs and professorships this year. This represents the largest single year increase in the state program's 15-year history.

"We want to thank Governor Foster and the Legislature for approving the additional \$22 million to help eliminate a growing backlog of matching grant requests for endowed chairs and professorships," Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie said. "Our colleges and universities have done an excellent job in raising matching gifts from generous private individuals and corporations. Thanks to the governor and legislators, we can now fund the state's share to create these new chairs and professorships."

Since the beginning of the program in 1986, the Regents have awarded \$129 million in matching grants to create approximately 196 endowed chairs, including 14-\$2 million chairs, and 1,104 endowed professorships. When matched with private contributions, the value of those chairs and professorships is approximately \$320.4 million.

Funding for the program is generated through a permanent trust fund approved by voters in a 1986 constitutional amendment. The original \$540 million payment was part of a settlement between the state and federal governments over off-shore oil and gas money. By 2001, the trust fund had risen to approximately \$921 million. Twenty-five percent of the interest earned each year is retained in the fund until it reaches \$2 billion. The Legislature appropriates half of the remaining interest to the Board of Regents for postsecondary education and the other half to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for grades K-12.

The endowed chairs program, Savoie said, is an invaluable recruiting tool in attracting new scholars and researchers to Louisiana. It also helps campuses retain eminent individuals who attract bright young professors and graduate students.

A major purpose of the program is to create stronger economic development ties between the private sector and higher education. To create endowed chairs for eminent scholars and endowed professorships, colleges and universities must raise 60 percent of the cost from private sources. For example, to create an endowed chair for eminent scholars, colleges and universities first must raise at least \$600,000 from private contributions, which then makes them eligible to receive the Regents' \$400,000 match. The total value of the endowed chair is \$1 million. Similar provisions apply to \$2 million chairs. In the Endowed Professorship program, \$60,000 must come from private sources to qualify for the Regent's \$40,000.

"Private contributions such as those given to support these endowed chairs and professorships,"

Savoie said, “are critical to the success of our colleges and universities. Since the founding of our nation, private philanthropy has sustained the institutions that have built one of the richest cultures the world has ever seen.”

In addition to underwriting Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars and Endowed Professorships, the Regents’ Support Fund provides grants for recruiting superior graduate students, providing laboratories and classrooms with state-of-the-art equipment, and establishing research and development funds as leverage to increase Louisiana’s share of federal research and development dollars.

Receiving matching grants for endowed chairs and endowed professorships: *[unless indicated otherwise, endowed chairs are \$1 million and endowed professorships are \$100,000]*

- . Centenary College -- 2 chairs, 10 professorships;
- . LSU-Alexandria -- 2 professorships;
- . Louisiana State University and A&M College -- 1-\$2 million chairs, 4-\$1 million chairs, 157 professorships;
- . LSU Health Sciences Center- New Orleans -- 3 chairs, 14 professorships;
- . LSU Health Sciences Center- Shreveport -- 1-\$2 million chair and 1-\$1 million chair;
- . LSU-Shreveport -- 3 professorships;
- . Louisiana Tech University -- 1 chair, 16 professorships;
- . Loyola University -- 2 chairs, 3 professorships;
- . McNeese State University -- 5 professorships;
- . Nicholls State University -- 2 chairs, 1 professorship;
- . Northwestern State University -- 2 professorships;
- . Our Lady of Holy Cross College -- 2 professorships;
- . Our Lady of the Lake College -- 1 professorship;
- . Paul M. Hebert Law Center -- 4 professorships;
- . Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge --1 chair;
- . Southeastern Louisiana University -- 5 professorships;
- . Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge -- 10 professorships;
- . Tulane University -- 1-\$2 million chair, 2-\$1 million chairs, 6 professorships;
- . Tulane Health Sciences Center -- 1-\$2 million chair, 4-\$1 million chairs, 13 professorships;
- . University of New Orleans -- 2 professorships;
- . University of Louisiana at Lafayette -- 1-\$2 million chair, 6-\$1 million chairs, 39 professorships;
- . University of Louisiana at Monroe -- 1 chair, 1 professorship;
- . Xavier University -- 3 professorships.

-30-